Women’s & Gender Studies Advisory Council (WGSAC)

MINUTES
September 12, 2012 at 4-5pm
MSAB 144 (Counseling & Health Care Conference Room)


Absent: Julie Campbell, Tami Moore, Trish Holen.

Van Ingen called the meeting to order on September 12, 2012 at 4pm.

Minutes from April 11, 2012 were approved by email on 4/22/12 and sent to Faculty Senate and Kenya Taylor.

1. Members introduced themselves and welcomed Deb Freedman.

2. Women’s Center update: Obrecht announced that the DOJ awarded the Women’s Center with a grant extension of about $900,000 for the next 3 years. It allows for their continued work with the Kearney Safe Center, FAN, area law enforcement agencies, and the five-county region for education, outreach and counseling support for victims of violence and abuse. It includes education awareness such as performance presentations on safe sex, healthy relationships etc. The Women’s Center sponsored the performance presentation of “Sex Signals” on September 4 which was very successful with over 400 students attending.

3. Budget: Van Ingen gave a brief update on the budget problems that arose over the summer regarding funding for the WSTD 220 adjunct and work-study students. Van Ingen learned that no new resources were allocated for Spring 2011 adjunct faculty which meant WGS surplus faculty, operating and workstudy funds had to be redirected to pay for adjunct costs. Adjunct resources for 2012-2013 are on a term-by-term basis.

4. On-Line Program: UNO received a planning grant to take their program on-line in collaboration with the other campuses; they have asked us to consider working with them on this opportunity. Members discussed the pros and cons of moving in this direction including:

   • The impact on the WSTD 220 introductory course: will it only be offered on-line or can we keep it on campus while it is also offered on-line at UNO? Are there resources such as a tuition waiver/GA-ship to support WSTD 220 instruction? Members raised concerns about losing the on-campus benefits of the introductory course, including recruiting students into the program and the faculty/student mentoring that occurs. Members also pointed out benefits of offering the course on-line, and the possibility of perhaps offering both options – on-line and on-campus for the intro course.

   • UNK electives will need to be cross-listed with the WSTD prefix (previously noted in the APR)

   • UNK will need to change the minor degree requirements (drop to 18cr hrs from 24) and consider dropping WSTD 420 sr. seminar requirement and adding a Women’s History survey requirement. These changes would make the UNK minor degree consistent with UNO and compatible with new UNK degree requirements of 120 hrs.

   • Create an on-line major degree in Women’s & Gender Studies. Members suggested this be part of the agreement for going on-line and noted that it may be necessary since both UNO and UNL have majors.

   • Get a copy of the collaborative grant.

   • Establish an agreement with the partner universities regarding specific courses that UNK will teach and what the other programs will teach.

   • Work strategically with help from e-campus (Van Ingen will contact G. Vavricka).
Members agreed to think about the on-line option and to gather any relevant information, and will vote at the next meeting on 1) moving forward with the possibility of an on-line program; 2) reducing the minor degree requirements to 18cr hours; 3) dropping the senior seminar requirement for the minor degree, 4) creating a Women’s & Gender Studies on-line major.

5. Co-Curricular:
   - QSA – a student representative is needed for WGS; student involvement is very strong this semester; Van Ingen asked members whether WGS wanted to co-sponsor a Biology speaker event with Ethnic Studies and QSA; members requested an abstract of the speaker program.
   - OMA–Mueller announced the creation of a new student organization: “The Social Justice League.” It meets at 5pm on Mondays in NSU 142 and is open to any students with a passion for social justice. Faculty are encouraged to announce this organization to students and they can contact Mueller for more information.
   - Triota – Jorgensen is the new president for 2012-2013. Students staffed a table at Blue&Gold and the Student Organization Fair, and they are sponsoring the film “Iron Jawed Angels” on Monday, September 17, 7:30pm in the Sissler Room in MSAB.
   - Dept. of Counseling & School Psychology: Mims announced a forthcoming Professional Development Series.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm (Fronczak/Mendoza)